

[METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ACTIVATING A CRASH COUNTERMEASURE]

Abstract of Disclosure

A system is provided (10) for sensing a potential collision of a first vehicle (11) with a second vehicle (72) that transmits a second vehicle information signal. The pre-crash sensing system (10) includes a threat registry (17), a position sensor (18) generating a first position signal corresponding to a position of the first vehicle, and a first sensor (20) generating sensor signals from the first vehicle. The vehicle also includes a receiver (22) that receives the second vehicle position signal from the second vehicle and a countermeasure system (40). A controller (12), (13) is coupled to the threat registry, the position sensor, the first sensor, the receiver, and the countermeasure system. The controller determines a time to collision and a distance to collision in response to the second vehicle information, the first position signal and the second vehicle position. The controller determines a threat level as a function of the time to collision and the distance to collision, activating the countermeasure system in response to the threat level and storing the vehicle threat level in the threat registry.

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